

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 CPR-02 AID-20 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 192134Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8050

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7064

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CI, MX

SUBJ: CHILEAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

1. AS REPORTED MEXICO 7042, HUGO VIGORENA RAMIREZ' RESIGNATION AS CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE JUNTA. VIGORENA DIRECTLY HAS ACCUSED CIA OF PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW ALLENDE. HE HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO MEET IN MEXICO WITH OTHER COLLEAGUES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA (UNNAMED) WHO LIKEWISE HAVE TENDERED THEIR REISGNATIONS. AS OF SEPTEMBER 18 HE APPARENTLY STILL OCCUPIED RESIDENCE. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT PUBLICLY SO STATED, EMBASSY ASSUMES HE WILL JOIN CHILEAN EXILE COMMUNITY IN MEXICO.

2. MILITARY ATTACHE, COL. TORO DAVILA, REPORTEDLY HAS TAKEN A STRONG PRO-JUNTA STAND. PRIOR TO COUP HE HAD REVEALED TO POLCOUNSELOR WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE HIS CLOSE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TIES TO GENERAL PINOCHET. TORO REPORTEDLY IS ON LIST FOR PROMOTION TO BRIG. GENERAL, IF HIS AFFINITIES FOR A NEW REGIME ARE AS CLAIMED, HE WELL
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MIGHT RETURN TO CHILE AT AN EARLY DATE SINCE HE CERTAINLY

WOULD BE OVER-RANKED FOR MILITARY ATTACHE'S POSITION HERE.

3. CHARGE AT CHILEAN EMBASSY IS CAREER DIPLOMAT LUIS CASTELLON CRUZ (MEXICO 7042). HE HAS INFORMED FONSECRETARY OF THIS FACT, BUT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON WHAT REACTION MAY HAVE BEEN.

4. CHILEAN PAINTER JOSE DE ROKHA, TERMING HIMSELF AS "EX-CULTURAL ATTACHE", GRANTED SEPTEMBER 18 INTERVIEW TO EXCELSIOR IN WHICH HE TOOK STRONG LINE AGAINST PRESENT REGIME, PARTICULARLY INTERIOR MINISTER OSCAR BONILLA WHO HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN PERSONAL FRIEND BEFORE HE "DISHONORED HIMSELF AS A SOLDIER AND AS A MAN". JULY DIPLOMATIC LIST DOES NOT CARRY ROKHA AS MEMBER OF EMBASSY STAFF (CULTURAL ATTACHE IS LISTED AS JOSE DIAZ ANABALON).

5. FINALLY, AS NOTED IN SEVERAL OF OUR REPORTING TELEGRAMS, RELATIONS WITH CHILE WILL BE STRAINED AT BEST GIVEN ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION'S WELCOME TO ASYLEES AND STRONG SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF ALLENDE AND HIS ADMINISTRATION. SOME PRESSURE BEING EXERTED TO WITHHOLD RECOGNITION, ALTHOUGH FONSECRETARY RABASA HAS STATED THAT "ESTRADA DOCTRINE" WOULD APPLY. EVEN IN LATTER CASE, GOM COULD DECIDE TO RECALL AMBASSADOR AND MAINTAIN LOWER LEVEL REPRESENTATION (OR EVEN CLOSE THEIR EMBASSY ALTOGETHER).
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